

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09732 290915Z
ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 /032 W
-----122533 291018Z /21

R 290840Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9025

UNCLAS TOKYO 9732

FOR DOT/NHTSA JOHN R. BURKE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, JA
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFO ON JAPANESE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

REF: STATE 145813

1. ARTICLE 44 OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT'S "SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR ROAD VEHICLES" DEALS WITH REAR VIEW MIRRORS. THESE REGULATIONS BECAME EFFECTIVE ON JULY 28, 1951, AND READ AS FOLLOWS:

"ARTICLE 44 (REAR-VIEW MIRROR, ETC.)

1. EVERY MOTOR VEHICLE (EXCEPT TRAILERS) SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH REAR-VIEW MIRRORS BY MEANS OF WHICH THE DRIVER IN HIS SEAT IS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS OF OTHER VEHICLES, AT BOTH SIDES, RIGHT AND LEFT, OF THE VEHICLE (OF THE TRAILER, IN THE CASE OF DRAWING A TRAILER), DIRECTLY BEHIND UP TO 50 METERS, AND ALSO IS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS NEAR THE LEFT SIDE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE ITSELF (OF THE TRAILER, IN THE CASE OF DRAWING A TRAILER OF A LARGE WIDTH), EXCLUSIVE OF THE AREA WHICH THE DRIVER IN HIS SEAT CAN DIRECTLY CONFIRM.

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"MOTORCYCLES, WITH OR WITHOUT A SIDECAR, NEED HAVE ONLY A REAR-VIEW MIRROR WHICH ENABLES THE DRIVER TO RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT BOTH SIDES, RIGHT AND LEFT, A SMALL-SIZED SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NEED HAVE A REAR-VIEW MIRROR MOUNTED AT THE RIGHT SIDE ONLY ENABLING THE DRIVER TO SEE DIRECTLY BEHIND TO 50 METERS.

"2. REAR-VIEW MIRRORS ON AMOTOR VEHICLE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS. HHOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF A MOTORCYCLE WITHOR WITHOUT SIDECAR, LARGE-SIZED SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OR MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A MAXIMUM SPEED LESS THAN 20 KM/H, THE REQUIREMENT OF ITEMS (2) AND (3) SHALL NOT APPLY, AND IN THE CASE OF AN ORDINARY MOTOR VEHICLE (EXCEPT THOSE CARRYING PASSENGES EXCLUSIVELY) AND A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A RIDING CAPACITY OF 11 PERSONS OR MORE, REQUIREMENT OF ITEM (3) SHALL NOT APPLY:

"(1) THE MIRROR MOUNTING SHALL PROVIDE FOR EASY MIRROR ADJUSTMENT AND SHALL PROVIDE A STABLE SUPPORT FOR THE MIRROR;

"(2) NEITHER THE MIRROR NOR THE MOUNTING SHALL PROTRUDE FURTHER THAN THE WIDEST PART OF THE VEHICLE BODY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MIRROR AND MOUNTING, AT ANY HEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING 1.8 METERS, EXCEPT THAT THIS REQUIREMENT SHALL NOT APPLY, IF THE MIRROR AND MOUNTING ARE SO DESIGNED AS TO REDUCE WHEN HITTING A PEDESTRIAN, THE LIKELIHOOD OF CAUSING EXCESSIVE HARM TO THE PEDESTRIAN.

"(3) THE MIRROR EQUIPPED IN THE COMPARTMENT
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SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN SUCH A WAY SO AS NOT TO GIVE THE PASSENGER EXCESSIVE HARM ON THE HEAD IN CASE OF COLLISION.

3. THE FOLLOWING MOTOR VEHICLE SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH AN UNDERVIEW MIRROR OR SIMILAR DEVICE SO THAT THE DRIVER IN HIS SEAT CAN RECOGNIZE AN OBSTACLE IN IMMEDIATE FRONT OFTHE VEHICLE OR IN THE NEARBY OF THE LEFT FRONT WHEEL, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES SO DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED THAT THE DRIVER IN HIS SEAT CAN DO SO DIRECTLY AND IN THE CASE OF TRAILERS:

(1) ORDINARY MOTOR VEHICLE EITHER WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT NOT LESS THAN EIGHT TONS OR WITH A MAXIMUM LOADING CAPACITY NOT LESS THAN FIVE TONS:

(2) MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A RIDING CAPACITY OF 11 PERSONS OR MORE.

4. THE EQUIPMENT OF THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPH

SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF ITEM (2) OF
PARAGRAPH 2 MUTATIS MUTANDIS."

2. THE ROAD TRANSPORT BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORT HAS TOLD US THAT IT HAS NO INFORMATION
NOR STATISTICS ON EITHER THE JAPANESE PUBLIC'S
ACCEPTANCE OF THESE STANDARDS (EMBASSY DOUBTS THERE
WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY PROBLEM) OR THE SAFETY EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF THESE MIRRORS. WE ALSO CONTACTED JAPAN'S
TWO LARGEST AUTO MANUFACTURERS, TOYOTA AND NISSAN
(DATSUN) BUT THEY, LIKEWISE, HAD NO SUCH INFORMATION.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, STANDARDS, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977065/aaaaaekc.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2cd7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 145813
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2126478
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFO ON JAPANESE MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS
TAGS: ELTN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2cd7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009